

Representative Tami Green

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Representative
Tami Green

T W E N T Y - E I G H T H D I S T R I C T

2006 Legislative Session in Review

Dear Neighbors,

Thank you for allowing me to represent you over the past two years. It's been an honor that I have taken very seriously. I am proud of what I have been able to accomplish for you and our community.

As your Representative, I focused on strengthening our educational system improving access to health care, and improving our economy.

I voted for a budget that is financially responsible. It saves \$2 for every \$1 spent; putting over \$900 million in savings accounts. These savings are similar to families saving for college or to purchase a new home in the future.

Finally, I help passed some of the strictest sex offender laws in the nation. These tough, smart laws, written with the help of prosecutors and police, will keep sex offenders off of our streets and away from our children.

Please don't hesitate to call or visit me at any time with your questions, concerns or with any difficulties you are encountering with any state program.

Thank you again for allowing me to represent you.

Sincerely,

Tami Green
State Representative
28th Legislative District

Education: Building a foundation for success

Investing in Children:

I voted to make a tremendous investment in our schools. I respected the will of the voters and fully funded Initiatives 728 (reducing class sizes) and 732 (improving teacher pay).

I funded a record investment of \$600 million to fund sorely needed emergency repairs, modernization and new construction for K-12 schools throughout the state. This money includes over \$27 million for elementary, middle, and high schools in Pierce County.

I improved opportunities for higher education by providing 7,900 new enrollment slots in both 2-year and 4-year college programs. Locally, I provided just under \$30 million for Tacoma Community College, \$6.5 million for Clover Park Technical College, \$5.3 million for the Pierce College campus at Ft. Steilacoom and \$4 million for a UW- Tacoma expansion.

Overall, I supported an increase in state funding for Washington's public schools by about \$1,490 per student.



Budgets: Showing financial responsibility and investing in the future

I worked for a state budget that is financially responsible and invests in the future. Families plan for the future and make sacrifices. Our state government needs to do the same

The budget saved \$2 for every \$1 spent and places over \$900 million in savings.

This year's budget that was built using voter-approved performance audit laws, will create financial stability for years to come.



2006 Session in Review



Protecting Families

Making sure our children are safe:

As a mother and grandmother, the safety and well-being of our children has been my top priority. I voted to give prosecutors and law enforcement officers' greater ability to convict Washington's sex offenders. These bills create:

- Mandatory 25-years-to-life sentences for child rape or molestation committed by strangers or teachers, coaches and other trusted authority figures.
- Round-the-clock GPS monitoring of sex offenders.
- The crime of communicating with a minor through email or a computer for immoral purposes.
- Possession of child pornography as a sex offense.

All of these measures had the support of police officers, prosecutors and victims' advocates, and gives Washington some of the toughest laws in the country.

Progress House:

I relentlessly fought the DOC's proposed relocation of Progress House (a work release program that houses high-risk male offenders) into the Lakewood community. My bill, prohibited the Department of Corrections from locating a criminal facility of any kind on the grounds of Western State Hospital. The bill passed the House of Representatives by a 97-0 vote.

I also passed legislation to create a Task Force on Offenders Programs, Sentencing, and Supervision to look at programs from around the country that have been successful in stopping criminals from re-offending and lowering costs. Further This study will include a full examination of how the Department of Corrections (DOC) operates work release programs and how these programs are sited throughout the state.

If you would like further information on this important issue please contact my district office at 253-534-3231 or by email at green.tami@leg.wa.gov.

Health Care: Lowering costs

One of the greatest challenges for families and businesses is the rising costs of health care. I have kept my commitment to finding solutions to this growing problem.

- **Coverage for all Children:** I, as a member of the Health Care Committee, expanded health care coverage for 80,000 additional children, building on my commitment to have every child covered by 2010.
- **Prescription Drugs:** I voted to expand the ability of uninsured Washingtonians – as well as private businesses – to join in bulk-purchasing discounts. A similar program in 2003 has saved tax payers \$30 million a year. This new law will help 81,000 senior citizens and 122,000 younger uninsured individuals save money on their prescription medicines.

A new drug discount card is now available to any state resident. The card reduces costs between 15 and 25 percent for prescription drugs not covered by insurance. The Rx Washington Card provides discounts at most mail order and retail pharmacies across the state. The annual membership fee is \$10 per person. Those interested in receiving an application for the program should call 1-866-576-3862, or go online at www.rx.wa.gov.



Other Highlights

Helping our Soldiers:

I was proud to write and sponsor the Veterans Innovation Program; legislation that creates two new tools to help veterans returning from conflicts in Afghanistan, Iraq and other countries. The program is composed of:

- A new Defenders' Fund that is dedicated to Washington National Guard troops and reservists returning from recent foreign wars, offering financial assistance to help citizen soldiers overcome financial hardships in employment, education, housing and health care.
- A new competitive grant program—overseen by citizens with expertise in helping veterans and their families—helps cities, counties and others provide services tailored to the needs of veterans in their home communities.

Reducing Property Taxes for Seniors:

I successfully voted to reduce interest rates paid by senior citizens and disabled retirees from eight percent to five percent, helping seniors stay in their homes.

Fighting Meth:

I passed two new laws to make sure that our police have the tools they need to fight the war on drugs by restricting access to ingredients used to "cook" meth. A similar law in Oklahoma reduced meth lab incidents by 80 percent.



Jobs: Creating a positive business environment

We need to find new ways of attracting and retaining jobs in Washington.

Lower Business Taxes

Small business is the backbone of our economy. I voted to approve more than \$50 million in tax incentives to create additional jobs; including a new law to raise the small business personal-property tax exemption from \$3,000 to \$15,000.

Supporting Our Military

The military community is vital to our local economy. The Governor and I personally toured the local military bases, upon which our local economy so heavily depends, and allocated \$5 million to respond to the needs of the military and the concerns of the BRAC (Base Realignment and Closure Commission).

We also responded to their needs by providing \$2 million to build new sewers in city of DuPont and reduced the current stress on the Ft Lewis system. This was in response to the concerns of our neighbors at Ft Lewis.



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Please join us for our district office open house!

Friday April 28 10-11:30am and 5:30pm-7pm
Saturday April 29th 1-2:00pm